

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7535

INFO DIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

DEA HQS

CINCPAC

USSAG NKP

13TH ADVON UDORN

AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 16343

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH

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SUBJ: ATMOSPHERICS IN BANGKOK ON OCTOBER 18

REF: BANGKOK 16270

SUMMARY: THE SANYA GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUING TO SORT ITSELF OUT. IN THE EUPHORIA OF UNRESTRAINED CRITICISM, STUDENTS AND MEDIA ARE SELECTING NEW TARGETS. CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO RENAMING SOME PUBLIC STRUCTURES. BANGKOK MAYOR CHAMNAN YUVAPURNA, A POLITICAL APPOINTEE WITH AN INFAMOUS REPUTATION FOR CORRUPTION, SEEMS AMONG THE FIRST TO BE EXITING THE GOVERNMENT. A PROBLEM IS ARISING OF EASING STUDENTS OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT. NEW STUDENT GROUPS ARE EMERGING WITH VARIOUS DEMANDS. NASCENT POLITICAL PARTY MOVES ARE UNDER WAY. THE CITY IS BURYING ITS DEAD. END SUMMARY.

1. TO FULFILL EMOTIONAL REQUIREMENTS CONFIRMING THAT A CHANGE HAS OCCURRED IN THAI POLITICAL LIFE, NAMES ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS ARE BEING CHANGED. KITTIKACHORN INDOOR STADIUM IS NOW VISANU'S SONS INDOOR STADIUM. VISANU, THE THAI EDITION OF THE MORE FAMILIAR VISHNU, IS THE GOD OF ENGINEERING, AND THUS THE SYMBOL THAT ALL THAI ENGINEERING SCHOOLS USE.

2. THE SANYA GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO TRY TO DETACH THE STUDENTS FROM ADMINISTRATION, AND GET ON WITH THE BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT. STUDENTS UNDER THE NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND (NSCT) HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM LOCAL POLICE STATIONS. THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER "THE NATION" ADDRESSED A COMMENTARY ON THE PROBLEMS OF GETTING THE STUDENTS OUT OF GOVERNMENT OCTOBER 18. THE ARTICLE CONTENDS THAT THE MASSIVE PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE STUDENT MOVEMENT WAS BECAUSE THE STUDENTS WERE PROPERLY FUNCTIONING AS A PRESSURE GROUP. THE STUDENTS MUST THEREFORE STOP INTERFERING WITH THE CONDUCT OF GOVERNMENT, AND RETURN, TO THEIR PRESSURE GROUP ROLE.

3. PROJECTING A BUSINESS AS USUAL IMAGE, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT A PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED APPOINTMENT FOR THE LEAGUE OF FAMILIES WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTER THANOM KITTIKACHORN WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

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HONORED. HOWEVER, CHARUNPHAS ISSARANGKUN NA AYUTTHAYA, THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER, WILL MEET THE GROUP.

4. A VARIETY OF REQUESTS AND DEMANDS ON THE SANYA GOVERNMENT ARE NOW SURFACING. A NEW ORGANIZATION, THE STUDENTS AND PEOPLES FRONT, HAS CIRCULATED A LIST OF 19 PROPOSALS RANGING FROM A TRIAL OF THANOM, PRAPHAT, AND NARONG, AND A MONUMENT TO THE "HEROES OF DEMOCRACY"

TO THE PARDON AND RELEASE OF THE THREE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WHICH THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHARGED WITH SEDITION A YEAR AGO. THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "BANGKOK POST" HAS ANNOUNCED THE CREATION OF AN "ACTION DESK." THE PUBLIC MAY TELEPHONE IN SUGGESTIONS AND CRITICISMS "TO HELP MAKE THAILAND A BETTER PLACE." THE "POST" OCTOBER 18 PRINTED THE FIRST DAY'S SUGGESTIONS, WHICH INCLUDED THE SEIZURE OF ALL PROPERTY THAT THE FORMER LEADERS HELD, AND A METROPOLITAN ENERGY AUTHORITY (MEA) EMPLOYEE'S TIP-OFF THAT THE MEA HAS A LARGE UNACCOUNTABLE FLOATING FUND WHICH SHOULD BE TURNED OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT. THE THAI LANGUAGE "BAN MUANG" IS ALSO ENCOURAGING ITS READERS TO WRITE IN SUGGESTIONS. THE PUBLIC, NEWSPAPERS, AND STUDENTS ARE SCRUTINIZING PATRONAGE APPOINTMENTS UNDER THE THANOM GOVERNMENT. BANGKOK METROPOLIS GOVERNOR DR. CHAMNAN YUVAPURNA, WHO IN ADDITION TO BEING A HIGHLY SKILLED ADMINISTRATOR HAS AN INFAMOUS REPUTATION FOR CORRUPTION, MAY BE ONE OF THE FIRST TO EXIT THE GOVERNMENT.

5. NASCENT POLITICAL STIRRINGS INCLUDE REPORTS THAT SENI PRAMOJ, FORMER PRIME MINISTER AND HEAD OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, SUGGESTED THAT THAILAND SHOULD HAVE A ONE PARTY POLITICAL SYSTEM AS AN EXPRESSION OF THE PEOPLE'S PRESENT UNITY.

6. BUSINESSES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES OPENED OCTOBER 18, AND AUTOMOBILES HAVE REPLACED DEMONSTRATORS AS A HINDRANCE TO TRAVEL.

7. THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SPONSORED THE CITY'S FIRST FUNERAL SERVICES WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. A CROWD OF A CONFIDENTIAL

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THOUSAND ATTENDED THE MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR 76 KNOWN VICTIMS OF THE WEEKEND FIGHTING.

8. VARIOUS NEW YOUTH GROUPS HAVE APPEARED. THE NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE ANNOUNED THAT IT WOULD CONTACT THE GOVERNMENTS WHERE THANOM, PRAPHAT, AND NARONG FLED AND ASK THAT THE FORMER LEADERS BE EXTRADITED FOR TRIAL IN THAILAND. ACTIVITIES OF THE STUDENTS AND PEOPLES UNITED FRONT WERE MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 4. THE MONOPOLY OF THE NSCT IS SERIOUSLY CHALLENGED BY THE EMERGENCE OF THESE SPLINTER GROUPS, MOST OF WHICH ARE PROBABLY OF A MORE RADICAL BEND.

9. SOMBAT THAMRONGTHANYAWONG, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NSCT, HAS SPOKEN WITH AMERICAN AND THAI NEWSPAPERMEN

WITHIN THE LAST FEW DAYS. REPORTS OF THESE INTERVIEWS
MAKE HIM SOUND PURITANICAL AND NATIONALIST. HE IS QUOTED
AS SAYING THAT THE MASSAGE PARLORS IN BANGKOK OUGHT
TO BE CLOSED (ALTHOUGH PROSTITUTION OUGHT TO BE
LEGALIZED), AND THAT THAILAND SHOULD DO AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE
FOR ITSELF WITHOUT EXTERNAL AID.
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